(b) whether their dismissal is directly linked to the portfolio management scheme;

(c) what is the total loss to Government due to such activities; and

(d) who was the broker through NALCO conducted these transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Shri S. N. Johri, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shri R. B. Rao, Director (Finance) and Shri K. S. Iyer, Chief Manager (Finance), National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) have been placed under suspension.

(c) An amount of Rs. 105 crores and interest thereon is recoverable by NALCO from CANFINA and Andhra Bank Financial Services Limited (ABFSL).

(d) The matter is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Setting of joint ventures with China for iron ore and coking coal

4544. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have decided to set up joint ventures in either country for iron ore and Coking coal;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement;

(c) whether any agreement was also arrived at on the transfer of technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Some Indian Companies have agreements with Chinese companies for the import of mini-blast furnace technology. Orissa Sponge Iron Limited (OSIL), have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September, 1992 with the China Metallurgical Imports and Exports Corporation for supply of technology for coal based direct reduction of iron ore.

Railway constraints for SAIL

4545. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway has been providing a major constraints for the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) which is now witnessing a significant rise in export and domestic orders;

(b) if so, whether the congestion on the Bhilai-Visakhapatnam Railway is posing problems for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) whose exports are largely through Vizag Port;

(c) what is the exact export of target of steel this year of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) against last year;

(d) whether Steel Authority of india Limited (SAIL) had received export orders so far in the current year; and

(e) if so, what is the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As per the MOU between SAIL and Government of India for 1993-94, SAIL has committed to export 350 thousand tonnes of Saleable Steel as against actual exports of 268.7 thousand tonnes during 1992-93. In addition SAIL is planning to export 7.0 thousand tonnes of Stainless Steel during the current year as against export of 5.5 thousand tonnes of Stainless Steel during 1992-93. Depending on the domestic and international market, SAIL would strive to increase exports further during the year.

During the current year (1993-94), for the period April—July, 1993 SAIL has booked orders for exports of Saleable Steel to the tune of around 5.9 lac tonnes.